

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3288

LIMDIS

NOFORN

GENEVA FOR AMB MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN XF IS XG

SUBJ: EUROPEAN ACTIVITY ON ISRAEL SUSPENSION ISSUE

REF: (A) USUN 3261 (NOTAL)

(B) EC BRUSSELS 6192 (NOTAL)

1. FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH EC-9 MISSIONS HERE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO PREVENT ARABS FROM RAISING ISRAELI SUSPENSION QUESTION AT JIDDA CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN PITIFULLY INADEQUATE.

2. EVEN THOUGH "FULL REPORT" OF EC-9 DEMARCHE TO EGYPTIANS HAS BEEN PROMISED US IN ROME (REF B), EUROPEANS HERE SAY THERE WAS
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LITTLE MORE TO PRESENTATION THAN WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TOLD (REF A).

BASIC IDEA WAS TO LET CAIRO KNOW NINE OPPOSED ISRAEL'S SUSPENSION SO THAT EGYPT WOULD HAVE "MORE AMMUNITION" WHEN IT TRIED DISSUADE MILITANT ARABS FROM PRESSING MATTER. WE FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT EUROPEANS DO NOT UNDERSTAND EGYPT'S DIFFICULTY IN APPEARING LESS MILITANT THAN OTHER ARABS, OR RECOGNIZE THAT AMMUNITION EGYPT NEEDS IS HARD WORK BY WEST IN OTHER ARAB CAPITALS. CONCLUSION WE ARE FORCED TO DRAW IS THAT NINE WERE LOOKING FOR EASY WAY OUT, AND THIS WAS IT.

3. SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, RECORD OF BILATERAL EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIONS IS EVEN WORSE. BRITISH AND GERMANS ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY BILATERAL APPROACHES MADE BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS. (UKUN--PROTECT--BELIEVES LONDON HAS NOT EXERCISED EC-9 LEADERSHIP IT COULD HAVE ON THIS ISSUE, AND IS SO REPORTING TO LONDON.) FRENCH APPEAR TO HAVE DONE THE MOST. NOT ONLY HAVE THEY STRONGLY EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS TO KHADDAM IN PARIS, BUT FRENCH MISSION TELLS US QUAI SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO EMBASSIES IN 26 ARAB AND NON-ALIGNED CAPITALS OUTLINING ARGUMENTS AGAINST ANTI-ISRAEL ACTION AT UNGA. WHILE LEVEL AND TIMING OF APPROACHES WERE LEFT TO AMBASSADORS' DISCRETION, FRENCH HERE SAY SOME PRESENTATIONS (NAIROBI AND ABIDJAN, FOR EXAMPLE) HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE.

4. CONSIDERING SERIOUSNESS AND FORMALITY OF US APPROACH TO NINE AND IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT EUROPEAN PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN SORELY DISAPPOINTING.
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